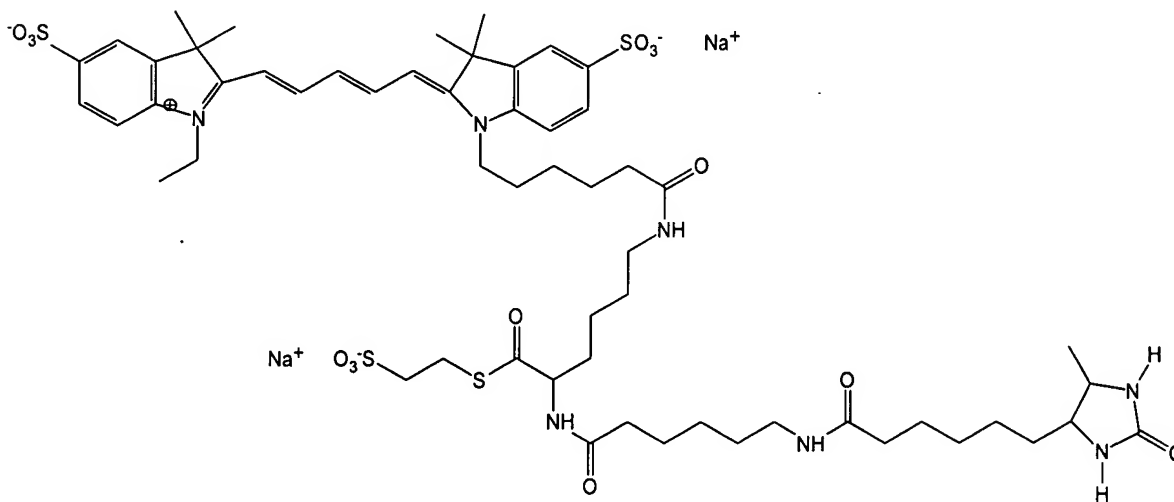


REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1–21 are pending in the captioned application.

The Examiner has required restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121. In response, Applicants elect, without traverse, to prosecute the invention of Group I, namely claims 1–10, 12 and 13.

The Examiner has additionally required an election of a single species of compound for prosecution. In response, Applicants elect the compound of the following structure for prosecution:



The elected structure is described on page 19 of the specification (see chemical structure from line 15, page 19). Here, D is a cyanine dye, L1 is an 11 atom unit linking the dye

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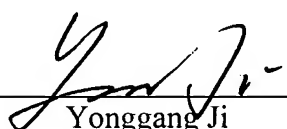
with M, M is a single carbon atom, L2 is a 14 atom unit linking M to the biotin (B), and F is the thioester portion attached to the single carbon of M.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-6, 8, 10, 12 and 13 read on the elected species. Applicants withdraw the non-elected claims and claims not read upon the elected species. Applicants submit that the withdrawn method claims 14-19 read on the elected species of compound as well. Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications on the non-elected groups and species.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully assert that the claims are in allowable form and earnestly solicit the allowance of claims 1-6, 8, 10, 12 and 13.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on March 16, 2006.

Signature: 

Name: Melissa Leck